

rank higher on the educational roll, and no school district in the State can reproach you for want of school facilities, for if it has them not, it will be its own fault.

This, in my judgment, is the best way to meet your responsibility. If your honorable body should think otherwise, then you should provide for a sufficient amount to keep the schools open at least four months in each year.

But whether you adopt the one plan or the other, simple justice demands that the school districts or townships which have of their own volition imposed additional taxes for this purpose should be credited with the amounts thus voluntarily raised, and to that extent should be exempted from additional taxation.

The average duration of the school term for the last two years is sixty days; three days less than in 1888. The whole amount expended in 1890, including special graded school taxes, is \$718,125; an increase of about \$18,000 over 1888. The total number of children between the ages of six and twenty-one is reported at 586,668; those enrolled under the law at 322,533, and the average attendance at 203,100.

#### THE UNIVERSITY.

But your duty upon the educational question will not be discharged by providing alone for the common schools. Our forefathers, in the gloomy days of the Revolution, were looking forward to the time when our State would become the great and prosperous Commonwealth she now is. North Carolina first of all the colonies proclaimed herself the advocate of higher education by declaring, in 1776, in the Constitution adopted at Halifax, that "all useful learnings shall be duly encouraged and promoted in one or more Universities." From time to time since then the people in their majesty have spoken, and their last utterance is to make its care your duty, and its proper maintenance one of your most